

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Preliminarily, Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 21 and 28 have allowable subject matter. Accordingly, Applicants have added new claims 56, corresponding to claim 21, and new claim 64, corresponding to claim 28, as suggested by the Examiner.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application based on the following remarks are respectfully requested. Claims 1-25 and 27-29 have been cancelled. New claims 33-65 have been added. Support for the amendments may be found throughout the specification. No new matter has been added as a consequence of these amendments.

Claims 16, 20-21, and 27-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Applicants submit that the claims, as amended, render this rejection moot, and that the claims are in full compliance with 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

Claims 1-19, 22-25 and 29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Macromolecules*, 36, 9020-9023(2003) ("Gilbert"). Claims 20 and 27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Gilbert in view of U.S. Patent 4,053,316 ("Lu"). For at least the following reasons, the claims are believed to be patentable over the cited references.

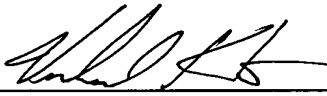
Applicants submit that instant application is entitled to the certified priority date of March 25, 2003. In contrast, Gilbert was published on November 7, 2003. Therefore, as Gilbert is not prior art to the pending application, the Applicants will reserve commenting on any differences between the cited reference and the present application.

Therefore, all objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney for Applicants at the telephone number indicated below in order to expeditiously resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: August 18, 2009